

Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A system for colour matching an object comprising:
 - (i) means for taking a coloured image of an object;
 - (ii) a single grey reference colour indicator for placement in close proximity to the object or associated with the means for taking a coloured image of an object so that the captured image contains the reference colour;
 - (iii) means for relaying the coloured image to a place remote from a location where the image of the object was taken;
 - (iv) means for analysing colour values of the image; and
 - (v) means for converting the colour values into parameters from which the original colour of the object can be reconstituted.
2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the means for taking a coloured image of the object is a camera.
3. (Original) A system according to Claim 2 wherein the means for taking a coloured image of the object is a digital camera.
4. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 2 wherein the camera is provided with cross-polarised filtration so as to produce a cross-polarised image.
5. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 2 wherein the camera is pre-set and/or pre-programmed to a specified focal length.
6. (Original) A system according to Claim 5 wherein the focal length is 25 ± 2 cm.

7. (Previously presented) A system according Claim 2 further including a camera housing assembly for supporting the camera.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein the camera housing assembly is provided with a light source for illuminating the object.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 8 wherein light is transmitted to the camera housing assembly via a fibre optic cable.

10. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 8 wherein the light source comprises a plurality of light spots.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 10 wherein the light spots are arranged in a ring.

12. (Previously presented) A system for colour matching an object comprising:
(i) means for taking a coloured image of an object;
(ii) means for relaying the coloured image to a place remote from a location where the image of the object was taken;
(iii) means for analysing colour values of the image;
(iv) means for converting the colour values into parameters from which the original colour of the object can be reconstituted; and

(v) a camera housing assembly for supporting the camera and including a telescopic member for preventing incidental light entering an image field of shot.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12 wherein the telescopic member comprises a tube comprising two independently extendible longitudinal tube halves whose

longitudinal edges slidingly engage and which may be adjusted so that, in use, and when extended, the tube can be made to approximately conform to the shape of curved objects and to rest thereagainst by extending one half of the tube more than the other half.

14. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 12 wherein the telescopic member, in use, is extended prior to taking an image and is retracted when not in use.

15. (Previously presented) A system for colour matching an object comprising:

- (i) means for taking a coloured image of an object;
- (ii) means for relaying the coloured image to a place remote from a location where the image of the object was taken;
- (iii) means for analysing colour values of the image;
- (iv) means for converting the colour values into parameters from which the original colour of the object can be reconstituted; and
- (v) a camera housing assembly for supporting the camera and including a means for assessing distance between the camera and the object to be imaged.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15 wherein the means for assessing distance comprises a mutually perpendicular cross-hair arrangement.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 15 wherein the means for assessing distance comprises a pair of right and left light beams or lasers.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein the grey is cool

grey C pantone number 8.

21. (Previously presented) A system according to Claims 1 wherein the reference colour indicator comprises a substantially U or L shaped block or a sheet or paper.

22. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the means for relaying the captured image to a place remote from a location where the image was captured is an electronic communication means.

23. (Original) A system according to Claim 22 wherein the electronic communication means is an Internet connection, a dedicated telephone line or a data carrier.

24. (Original) A system according to Claim 23 wherein in the instance of relaying image data via the Internet data is encrypted so that whilst it is in the public domain or "on air" it is in a form that cannot be accessed by the public.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 4, wherein the means for analysing the colour values is a computer software program which is capable of converting the cross-polarised image of the original object into a plurality of colour components.

26. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the colour values of the captured image of the original object colour are represented by intensities of red, blue and green colour components.

27. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1 wherein said system is configured for use in colour matching a natural tooth or set of teeth so that a dental prosthesis can be constructed to match the natural tooth of a patient.

28. (Previously presented) A system for identifying colour components of an object comprising:

- (i) means for taking a coloured image of an object;
- (ii) a single grey reference colour indicator placed in close proximity to the object or associated with the means for taking a coloured image of an object so that the captured image contains the reference colour;
- (iii) means for relaying the coloured image to a place remote from a location where the image of the object was taken;
- (iv) means for analysing colour values of the image; and
- (v) means for converting the colour values into parameters so as to compare or record the colour values against a reference set.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) A method of colour matching an object comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing a single grey reference colour indicator in close proximity to the object;
- (ii) capturing a coloured image of the object and the reference colour indicator;
- (iii) relaying the captured image to a place remote from the object;
- (iv) analysing colour values from the captured image; and
- (v) converting the colour values from the captured image into parameters from which the original colour of the object can be reconstituted.

31. (Original) A method according to Claim 30 wherein the object is illuminated with a supply of known light at a specified distance therefrom prior to step (i).

32. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 further including the step of reducing/preventing incidental light from entering a field of shot.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 wherein the reference colour indicator is of known red, green and blue values, so that when the colours of the captured image are analysed, the reference colour is located in the captured image and red, green and blue values of the whole captured image are corrected relative to the reference colour.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 further including the step of relaying the colour values back to a location where the original image was captured so that a comparison can be made between the colour of the original object and that of the reconstituted colour image.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 wherein a VDU is provided at the place where the image was captured and/or where the captured image is relayed for analysis is provided with software for correcting reference colour red, green and blue values on the monitor/screen so that a displayed image on the VDU is colour corrected with respect to the reference colour.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 further including the step of committing to memory or storing a colour recipe in a central data bank.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30 when used in colour matching a natural tooth or set of teeth with a dental prosthesis.

40. (Original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein when taking the image of a patient's natural tooth/teeth *in situ*, the camera is positioned a predetermined distance from a skeletal reference point on a patient's skull.

41. (Original) A method according to Claim 40 wherein the camera is positioned from 15-25 cm inclusive from the skeletal reference point.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to Claim 39~~ A method of colour matching a natural tooth or set of teeth with a dental prosthesis, comprising the steps of:

(i) placing a single grey reference colour indicator in close proximity to the natural tooth or set of teeth;

(ii) capturing a coloured image of the natural tooth or set of teeth and the reference colour indicator;

(iii) relaying the captured image to a place remote from the natural tooth or set of teeth;

(iv) analysing colour values from the captured image; and

(v) converting the colour values from the captured image into parameters from which the original colour of the natural tooth or set of teeth can be reconstituted;

wherein the camera position with respect to the patient is monitored by aligning horizontal and vertical cross hairs or by a common point when left and right light beams or lasers coincide.

44. (Previously presented) A method of identifying colour parameters of an object comprising the steps of:

(i) placing a single grey reference colour indicator in close proximity to the object;

(ii) capturing a coloured image of the object and the reference colour;

- (iii) relaying the captured image to a place, optionally remote from the object;
- (v) analysing colour values from the captured image; and
- (v) converting the colour values from the captured image into parameters so as to compare them to a reference set and/or to record individual characteristic colour values.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 44 wherein the object is one of textiles, paints, dyes, car body parts, cosmetics, hair dyes, skin preparations and pigments in picture restoration.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 44, wherein the object is one of precious metals, gems and stones, currency notes, identity pictures/photographs and batch colouring processes.

48. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the object is one of textiles, paints, dyes, car body parts, pigments in picture restoration and cosmetics.

49. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30 wherein the object is one of metals, gems and stones, currency notes, identity pictures/photographs and batch colouring processes.

50. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 1 wherein the object is a natural tooth.

51. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the object is a natural tooth.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 30, wherein the image is a part of a body and wherein relaying the image comprises relaying the images to a health care professional remote from a patient so that a diagnosis can be made without the patient needing to be physically present.

54. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the object is a subject with a condition where the physical appearance and colour of an organ is a relevant diagnostic factor.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) A method of colour matching a natural tooth or set of teeth of a patient with a dental prosthesis, comprising the steps of:

- (i) placing a single grey reference colour indicator in close proximity to the tooth or set of teeth;
- (ii) capturing a coloured image of the tooth or set of teeth and the reference colour indicator;
- (iii) relaying the captured image to a place remote from the tooth or set of teeth;
- (v) analysing colour values from the captured image; and
- (v) converting the colour values from the captured image into parameters from which the original colour of the tooth or set of teeth can be reconstituted;

wherein the camera position with respect to the patient is monitored by aligning horizontal and vertical cross hairs or by a common point when left and right light beams or lasers coincide.